

LANTERN

NUMBER 18 ++++++SUMMER 1977

introduction

First of all I must apologise to all the readers of Lantern who received the last issue with one page stapled in back to front! This happened in my rush to get that edition out on time after the hold-up at the printers...sorry.

In this edition of Lantern is the first part of an article by yours truly on the phantom black dogs of East Anglia. Normally I try to keep my contributions to the mag to a minimum, as I feel that it all too easy for the editor of such a publication as this to fill it with his own views and articles and even to look upon it as his magazine! However, I had accumulated so much material on the black dog phenomena that I decided that the time had come to get some of it into print.

I have been involved with the BSIG since its formation at the beginning of 1971 and have watched the Group grow from strength to strength. However, due to personal reasons, I find it increasingly difficult to cope with all the different aspects of the Group's activities, in particular organising investigations and dealing with the piles of letters that I receive every week. Consequently I intend adopting a 'lower profile' (to use current terminology) and concentrate solely on the editorship of Lantern and one or two minor administration jobs. To help in this could would-be correspondents use the following addresses to send their mail to:-

MEMBERSHIP: Robert Goldsmith,	UFO RESEARCH: Keith Williamson,
II Caistor Lane,	'Glenroy',
Poringland,	Chapel Road,
Norwich,	Norwich,
Norfolk.	Norfolk.

In the absence of our PSYCHICAL RESEARCH Liaison Officer (who is in London for 6 months), correspondence regarding this aspect of the Group's activities can still be sent to me, as can magazine enquiries and magazine subscription renewals as I will still be dealing with the distribution of Lantern.

Ivan Bunn, Editor.

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BOOK REVIEWS: "UFOLOGY" by James M. McCambell.

This book, like many of the recent American publications, is concerned with the scientific aspects of the UFO phenomena. In the preface the reader is asked to temporarily assume that most UFOs are physically real, manufactured objects in order to follow the reasoning which follows.

After two introductory chapters for those not acquainted with the present UFO situation, the author goes on to discuss how the luminosity and sounds of UFOs could be explained by today's scientific knowledge. Electrical interference and physiological effects associated with UFOs are also discussed with some very interesting explanations. Space is given to descriptions of typical UFOs and occupants and propulsion theories.

The book concludes by appraising the hypothesis set forth in the previous pages and suggests a programme plan for future scientific research. It is evident that a good deal of thought has gone into this book, although the author does not mean to present it as a final scientific explanation for the UFO (Continued on p.2)

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INVISIBLE FRIENDS

LESLEY BUNN

ter's room, played with her all the time and was always laid a place at the table.

The sister-in-law is now 38 years old, and last year, her mother moved close to some new flats built for old people. At the club there, she started talking to an old lady, and the subject got around to houses. The discovery was then made that they had both lived in the same house; the old lady had lived there when it was first built. As she was talking the old lady mentioned her son 'Johnny' and everything clicked into place. When he was four years old he fell down the steps outside the house, whereupon he contracted Tetanus and died - which perhaps explained why the little girl's friend would never go outside the gate!

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The second story was very similar and entailed a female cousin of my friend. When she started school there was a particular girl that she always spoke of, but never brought home. She walked with her and played with her at school until one day she came home and said that she had been invited to go to her 'friends' house for her sixth birthday party. She insisted that if her mother got her ready she could point out the girl's house and be left at and collected from the door.

When they arrived at the house, her mother was a bit puzzled because it looked so dull and was painted such a dull colour. Nevertheless, she knocked on the front door and it was opened by an old lady, to whom she explained about the party. It then transpired that the girl had been the daughter of the old lady and that she had died just before her sixth birthday! After that day she was never mentioned again.

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BOOK REVIEWS (continued).

phenomenon. Rather, he has written it as an exercise in applying conventional scientific research practise to ufology, a subject to which many people have said that it is nearly impossible to apply the "scientific method."

K.W.

"PHANTOM LADIES" by Andrew Green. Pub.by Bailey Brothers & Swinfen Ltd., £3.85.

Laid out in the 'gazetteer' style, county by county, this interesting new book deals with a wide selection of 'phantom ladies' from the four corners of the UK, all of which, says Mr.Green in his preface, have been experienced within the last 25 years. The book is well illustrated with photographs and contains, in the majority of the cases, a wealth of interesting background material to each ghost.

Because of the author's criteria that only phenomena experienced during the past 25 years be included, some well-known or much publicised hauntings have been omitted, which has left room for more, less well known, but none the less interesting accounts to be included.

This is an invaluable little guide, and although by no means comprehensive, it is just the thing for the summer holidays, especially if you are on a touring holiday of the country. It is also useful to the serious students of psychical research as it illustrates well the various guises, situations and locations in which the phantom ladies of the country appear.

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BLACK SHUCK

BY
IVAN BUNN

PART ONE: ENCOUNTERS, LEGENDS AND AMBIGUITIES.

During the past two years my research into the 'Black Shuck' legends of East Anglia have proved one thing, if nothing else, that this phantom dog is not purely a legend but has been seen over and over again right up to the present day.

For the uninitiated, 'Black Shuck' or 'Old Shuck', is a large, black phantom dog which stalks the dark lanes of the East Anglian countryside bringing ill to all that encounter him. Often, according to the legends, he has huge blazing eyes and often drags a heavy chain. In fact the picture of Shuck is not as simple as the legends make out. His guise and form varies immensely from place to place and first hand reports of encounters with him rarely mention any of his more spectacular, legendary characteristics. However, by way of compensation for this, other hitherto unrecorded (as far as I know) characteristics seem to be emerging as my file of reports and information grows. One of the most interesting aspect of the Shuck stories that seems to be emerging is his association with water. Many of the stories themselves mention water; for instance, at Blickling Hall, Norfolk, he emerges from the mouth of a huge fish that is caught in a nearby lake(1). At Old Fletton near Peterborough, in the 1930's, a man met him twice on separate occasions and each time the creature vanished into a roadside pond(2).

At Barnby, Suffolk, the creature has been seen many time at a place called 'Water Bars' and also at another place in the same parish where the old Hundred Stream flows under the road(3). In 1823 another phantom dog, white in colour and the size of a bullock was reputed to haunt a spot in the parish or Burgh, Suffolk, called 'Bath Slough' - being a slough or boggy pool(4). In many other stories as well Shuck is encountered on bridges over streams and rivers or in marshes.

A breakdown of all the Shuck stories I have so far collected show that, almost without exception, the creature is seen within 5 miles of water but usually very much closer:

seen within.	1 mile	2 miles	3 miles	4 miles	5 miles	5m plus
NORFOLK:	26	4	3	3	-	-
SUFFOLK:	13	4	2	-	2	-
CAMBRIDGESHIRE:	6	2	1	-	1	1
ESSEX:	4	1	1	-	-	-
TOTALS:	49	11	7	3	3	1

The above table includes ALL the stories that I have so far collected and in all cases the distance is measured from the nearest principal river or the sea and not from minor stream or tributaries.

Although to date I have not delved to deeply into her research, Ethel Rudkin seems to have reached similar conclusions with her investigations into the Black Dog Lore of Lincolnshire. Likewise Steve Moore who has investigated similar phenomena in the Shooters Hill area of London(5 & 6).

One of the legendary aspects of Shuck's character is his apparent ability in foretelling death. The impression generally given by the legends is that everyone who encounters him will meet with some misfortune usually death, within a short time, or else somebody close to them will (although some versions of the legend do insert what could be termed an 'escape clause' whereby misfortune only befalls them only if they mention their encounter within 12 months). As with other aspects of the Shuck legends the facts do not seem to compare favourably with the legends, for out of a total of 74 stories so far collected, only 17 instances of death followed when the witness actually attributed the death to the encounter with the appearance of Shuck. Sometimes the end is violent as in this story which dates from 1893. The story is told of how at Rockland, Norfolk, one night, a man and his companion were driving along a lane "...when suddenly right in their path stood a huge uncanny dog. The driver pushed on in spite of his companions warning ...but as the cart touched the Thing the air was alive with waving flame and a hideous, sulphurous stench loaded the atmosphere. Within a short time the over-

bold driver died and Shuck has not been seen since in those parts..." (7). A similar story comes from Essex where "many years ago" a man struck out at the Black Dog of Hatfield Peverell and he, his horse, wagon and load were burnt to ashes (8).

Those two accounts seem to be exceptions concerning deaths associated with Shuck. More common are stories like the following, from Hockley, Essex, which was sent to me by the wife of the witness. This particular incident happened in 1965. "...at the time we were living at Hawkwell, Hockley, Essex. He (the husband) was in the garden when he saw a big black dog...it appeared from nowhere travelling at great speed, then it just disappeared. About 2 or 3 weeks later my sister's husband died..."

A similar story was told at Winfarthing, Norfolk, when a local woman saw a huge black dog approaching her cottage one evening. It padded up to the gate and disappeared. Her grandfather died shortly afterwards and his death was attributed to the appearance of the dog (9). In another letter I received recently the same sort of story was also told. The incident took place late one afternoon on the road near Buxton Lamas church, Norfolk, in 1930. The witness wrote "... I had not gone many steps when suddenly from nowhere a large, black shaggy dog appeared at my side. I put my hand down to pat him, saying 'Hello old fellow, where are you going?', but before I could actually 'going' the dog disappeared as suddenly as it had appeared...On the following Tuesday morning...I had a letter to tell me my brother had died at Liverpool Hospital the previous Friday...at the exact time I encountered the dog..." There are many stories similar to these, but these will serve to illustrate the most common association between the appearance of Shuck and subsequent death.

As I have already said, by far the largest proportion of the Shuck stories DO NOT mention death or misfortune, although quite a number of them do refer to the dog as being a violent creature, which means that it was (or gave the impression of being) a solid, flesh and blood creature. In the 1800s the story was told of how, at Gt. Yarmouth, Norfolk one night, a lady encountered a "horrible black dog which sprang out of the darkness" it had "starting eyeballs that gleamed like balls of fire." It jumped up the unfortunate woman and placed its forepaws on her shoulders. "Its breath, of noxious odour, struck her face in hot blasts" (10).

At nearby Gorleston at around the same time, a countryman was journeying home one night when he met Shuck, heavily-laden with chains that rattled. The dog accompanied him along the road, the man, upon recovering his wits, told the dog to clear off. Whereupon he was unexpectedly seized and thrown over a nearby hedge with considerable force (11). At Geldeston, Norfolk, a huge black dog with eyes of fire and a foaming mouth haunts the lane near the church. It is said that if you encounter this creature but show no fear then it will walk silently behind you. The person who encounters should make no attempt to turn back because the beast will growl and snarl and become violent. It is also said that this dog has also been known to drag children along by their clothes (12).

Sometimes in Shuck stories, violent attacks and deaths go hand in hand. Writing 1927, C. Marlowe says "...an old salt asked me if I had ever heard of the 'shuck Dog'. It appeared that a spectre of this name was supposed to haunt the marshes between Wells and Sheringham (Norfolk)...his grandfather apparently had met the ghost near Stiffkey and had been found in the morning with his throat torn...All the way from Weybourne Hoop the story was the same. A hound, much bigger than any animal of its kind, haunted the saltlands and pursued wayfarers...leaping upon his victims from behind (he) would maul the victim's throat and then vanish in smoke..." (13).

One of the more traditional haunts of Shuck is Overstrand, Norfolk, where a black, shaggy dog with immense eyes was said to frequent the churchyard. In 1829 he was described as "Not only visible, but tangible" and was said to have a "rough, hard and shaggy back and always, after he had gone, a scar would be found on the ground as if gunpowder had been exploded" (14). Shuck at Overstrand was sometimes seen with a head and sometimes without, but always with eyes as big as saucers (15). East Flegg, Norfolk, like Overstrand is reputedly haunted by a black dog which is seen in and around the churchyards of that area. Like the Overstrand creature he has blazing eyes the size of saucers and years ago people "averred that the ground over which he passed was later found to be scarred as if a fire had been lit there (16).

In this article I have tried to show the differences and ambiguities in the Shuck stories and legends. Now, from tangible type creatures we move more in to the realm of the intangible. As already noted, one of Shuck's more consistent abilities seems to be that of appearing and disappearing suddenly. This is well illustrated by the following story, which incidentally is the oldest actual eye-witness account I have so far received. It was sent to me by a 97 year old man now living at Gorleston. He tells how, when he was living at Diss, Norfolk in 1897, he encountered a large, black dog in a high-hedged lane. It was early evening and he was sitting on a stile with his girl-friend when "...something caused us to turn round...we saw a large black dog quite close to us...he was looking at us as if he wanted to come on over the stile. We both jumped down to allow him to come over but he had vanished...there was no dog in sight. We only saw

RANG UP ON CHANCE.

The following amazing coincidence was reported in the Lowestoft Journal of April 7th, 1977:

"Gasps of astonishment met our reporter's phone enquiry to the Pye factory: "Could I speak to Mr. Howarth please?"

"This is incredible," said the voice at the other end. Then, still appearing to be doubled-up with amazement, he asked weakly who was calling.

"Lowestoft Journal", said our puzzled reporter, "Is it possible to speak to Mr. Howarth?"

"But this is Mr. Howarth," came the reply. And what was incredible was that, unknown to her, the number our reporter had been given was for a phone box in the factory grounds.

And Mr. Howarth, one of the 1,500 people working there, happened to have walked into the phone box to make a personal call at the precise moment she rang.

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him for a split-second, he was of the retriever type - rough coated - we noticed chiefly his large brown eyes."

Another correspondent also described his encounter with a seemingly phantom dog at Cromer some years ago "looking towards the railway bank I saw this great black - well it was almost as big as a tiger - animal. It was sort of jumping and gliding quite fast towards the bridge ...but before it got to the bridge it disappeared." A more 'traditional' phantom dog was at one time reputed to haunt the lanes round Garveston, Norfolk. He had blazing eyes and was the size of a small pony and always disappeared in a 'particular lane' in the Parish (17). Another disappearing dog was encountered near Hempnall, Norfolk, in the 1930's. This dog seemed about to cross the road in front of the witness, who was riding his bike at the time, but instead it just vanished. This particular stretch of road at Hempnall has a Shuck tradition going back many years (18).

Another version of Shuck, who was sometimes seen headless, was encountered a number of times back in the 1930s

at Barnby, Suffolk. He was seen (as already noted) a a spot called 'Water Bars' on the Lowestoft to Beccles road. Most of the witness's accounts of their encounter with him are very similar; "...it was big and black but had no head, I put my hand down to coach the animal but it went clean through it..." - "...the dog came up beside me. I put my hand out to touch it but then it was gone..." - "...I saw in the half light what appeared to be a labrador...when I turned round the animal had gone..." Yet another witness had an incredible brush with a black dog in another part of the same parish (where the old Hundred Stream flows under the road). When I visited her, she told me of how one dark night just prior to WWII, she and her sister went out together to post a letter. As they rounded a corner and approached the Post Office they saw a big black dog. The witness, thinking that it was a neighbour's dog that had got loose, went to grab him, whereupon the creature shrunk down to the size of a cat and disappeared!! (19).

Other encounters with seemingly solid black dogs also end with rather alarming results. Shortly before WWI, a man named Kent and his companion, encountered a large, rough-coated dog with glowing eyes at Barham, Suffolk. As it began to follow them, Kent struck out at it with a heavy stick, which instead of having the desired effect, went clean through the creature which then bounded off and vanished through a solid brick wall. (20). A similar incident occurred on the road between Cromer and Overstrand when a man, who was walking home late one night,

suddenly found himself accompanied by a large black, shaggy dog. He struck at it with his walking stick which went clean through it and the animal disappeared (21).

At Neatishead, Norfolk, one night a man took a hefty kick at another large black dog that was sitting in the lane blocking his path. Once again, instead of having the expected result, the man almost fell over backwards when his foot went through the creature which promptly vanished. (22).

There seems to be no end to the guises in which Shuck appears, although I must admit that the following cases it can only be surmised that the dog in question is Shuck, for the creature is invisible! One such creature (if that be the right term) was encountered over 100 years ago on Thetford Bridge, Norfolk. Here it tried, unsuccessfully, to push a blind boy and his sister into the river. (23). Another story involving an invisible dog was sent to me recently. The letter reads:

"In the autumn of 1973, I was working for a firm laying a new sewer line across the marshes behind Blythburgh Church (Suffolk). I was quite alone at the time...when I heard the sound of a dog panting, it was so close, as if it were right at my ear. It caused my hackles to literally rise! When I got over my fright, I had a good look round, but there was nothing and nobody in sight. At the time I knew nothing of the (shuck) legend, not being a local man, but when I was with some friends in Lincolnshire some weeks later and mentioned my weird experience, they immediately said "Black Shuck" and then produced a book of legends containing a large account of the dog. According to the book the appearance of the dog is supposed to herald a death, and strangely enough my youngest son died the following June..."

The interesting thing about this story, apart from the very recent date, is that Blythburgh Church is famous for its visit by the 'Devil' in the form of a Black Dog, which occurred in the 16th century and which was responsible for the deaths of a number of people and extensive damage to the church.

At this point I must conclude the first part of this examination of Old Shuck, which I hope will be continued in the next edition of *Lantern*.

NOTES AND REFERENCES:

- (1): Full story in 'Round about Norfolk and Suffolk' by F.J. Meyrick.
- (2): Article in Eastern Daily Press 17/1/1968 and also personal correspondence and visits by writer with the witnesses.
- (3): Eastern Daily Press, 17/1/1968.
- (4): See 'Suffolk Words and Phrases' by Edward Moor: 1823.
- (5): See articles entitled 'The Black Dog' published in Folklore Vol. 49 (1938).
- (6): 'Notes on Greenwich Phenomena' by Steve Moore, Fortean Times Nos. 16 & 17.
- (7): Eastern Daily Press 2/7/1894.
- (8): 'Dog' by Patricia Dale-Green, (Hart-Davies 1966).
- (9): Norwich Mercury 28/1/1944.
- (10): Article in the Yarmouth Mercury dated 7/1/1893, entitled "Tales and Traditions of Old Yarmouth."
- (11): - ditto
- (12): "In the Footsteps of Borrow and Fitzgerald" by Morley Adams, 1914.
- (13): "East Anglian Folklore and Other Tales" by W. Barrett & R. Garrod, 1976.
- (14): Eastern Daily Press 2/7/1894, article entitled 'Demon Dogs of Norfolk and Suffolk.'
- (15): ditto
- (16): Norwich Mercury, 28/1/1944.
- (17): Eastern Counties Magazine, 1901. Also in 'A Norfolk Folklore Collection' Vol. III, by W. Gerish, 1890/92 (unpublished).
- (18): "Here are Ghosts & Witches" by J. Wentworth Day, 1954.
- (19): Eastern Daily Press 17/1/1965 and personal visits to witnesses by writer.
- (20): Eastern Evening News, 15/3/1965.
- (21): Letter to editor of Eastern Daily Press 16/11/1971.
- (22): "The Norfolk Garland" by John Glyde, 1872. Re-published in part as "Folklore and Customs of Norfolk" by EP Publishing, 1973.
- (23): "Folklore of East Anglia" by E. Porter (1974) from an article by P. Lillingston in the "Cambridge News, 20/12/1956.

E. ANGLIAN FORTEAN MISCELLANY

From 'Curiosities of Nature and Art'; author unknown, c.1837:-

"On the 28th of August, 1698, about 8 o'clock in the morning, there was seen, at Sudbury, in Suffolk, the appearance of three suns, which were then extremely brilliant. Beneath a dark watery cloud, in the east, and nearly at its centre, the true sun shone with such strong beams, that the spectators could not look at it; and on each side were the reflections. Much of the firmament was elsewhere of an azure colour. The circles were not coloured like the rainbow, but white; and there was also at the same time, higher in the firmament, and towards the south, at a considerable distance from the other phenomena, the form of a half moon, but apparently of double the size, with the horns turned upward. This appearance was within a fiery red colour, imitating that of a rainbow. These phenomena failed gradually after having continued about two hours."

In the births column of Bruisyard, Suffolk, parish register, the following interesting entry was made for November 25th, 1645:-

"Francis or Frances ye child of Henry Gates and Frances his wife, (being and Hermophrodit.)"

Just over a week later the child died, the deaths column for December 3rd reads:

"Buried - Frnc's the child of the abovesaid Henry Gates."

From the 'London Chronicle'; April 12 - 15, 1800:-

"Wednesday morning last, just after a shower of rain, the inhabitants of Stoke by Clare, Suffolk, were much alarmed at the sudden appearance of a numerous swarm of animals on the village green, much of the same shape and frame of the grub grasshopper, so called, with long black legs, black heads and goggling eyes. They remained there for some hours, and the herbage on which they preyed was found soon after to have lost much of its verdure....their presence is much dreaded, as no attempts that have as yet been used to destroy them have succeeded."

On the floor of a 17th century dormitory in Bruisyard Hall is a large dark stain which has defied all attempts at removal. It is said to be a patch of dried human blood, which ties in with the tradition of a grisly murder having taken place there, but there is no historical evidence for this whatsoever.



BRUISYARD HALL

From the 'East Anglian Miscellany';
1928 - 1929:-

"Due to some obscure atmospheric effect, six Consecration Crosses have appeared on the walls of Westhall Church, Suffolk. They are foliated crosses, c. 8 inches across the arms, surrounded by 8 stars or roses, arranged round the cross at about a distance of 6 inches. Some four years ago the same thing happened, and then they gradually disappeared, and have not since been seen until now."

Michael W. Burgess
East Suffolk and Norfolk
Antiquarians.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO LANTERN ARE ALWAYS WELCOMED, EITHER IN THE FORM OF ARTICLES, PERSONAL EXPERIENCES, NEWS CUTTINGS, COMMENT AND SUGGESTIONS. PLEASE SEND THEM TO THE EDITOR, 3 DUNWICH WAY, OULTON BROAD, LOWESTOFT, SUFFOLK.

U.F.O. REPORTS

Among the few unexplained sightings reported to the Norfolk UFO Investigation Network since the last edition of *Lantern*, was an account by a Dereham man and his cousin of their observation of an unidentified object over Dereham. The sighting was reported in the "Eastern Evening News" and the "Dereham and Fakenham Times" of Friday 20th May 1977

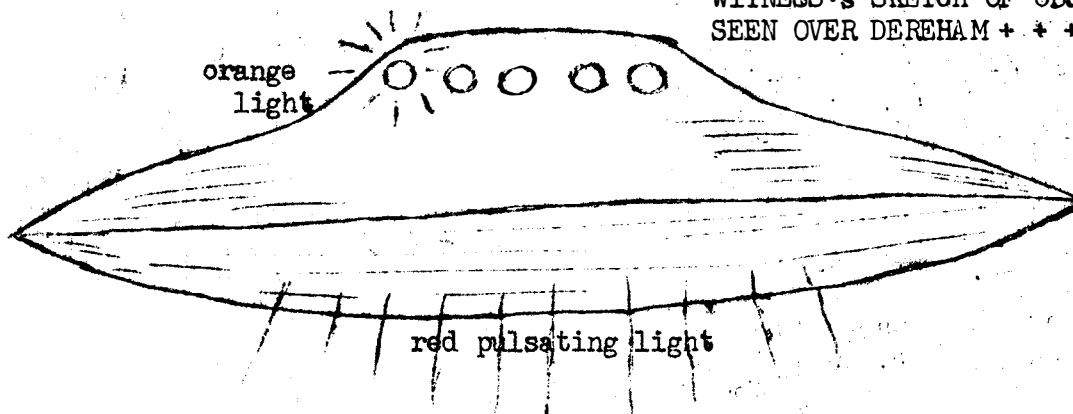
From the signed statement made by the witness we read that:-

"On the evening of 11th May at 9.30 pm (it was dusk) I was the passenger in a car driven by my cousin when on turning off the Dereham Market Place I looked up and saw a huge flying saucer. That is the only way to describe it. It was completely unmistakable. It had a red pulsating light beneath it and an orange glow in one of the windows or portholes. It travelled silently across the sky from east to west at no more than forty feet above the roof tops. It was approximately thirty feet long and was metallic in colour. It was in full view for at least fifteen seconds. There can be no mistake about this it was so close, about one hundred yards. It moved across my field of view at almost level flight."

The sighting is being investigated by John Copsey of the Dereham UFO study Group. Another sighting, this time of an "orange flashing light" was reported by letter to the *Evening News*. A Norwich lady wrote to say that she had seen a slow moving light over the City on the 17th June; and four students from the School of Physics and Maths, University of East Anglia, Norwich also wrote to say that they had seen a similar object on the same date.

Full details of these sightings will be included in the next issue of *Lantern* when the investigations have been completed.

WITNESS'S SKETCH OF OBJECT
SEEN OVER DEREHAM + + + +



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The following report comes from the *Eastern Evening News*, 27th May, 1977:
TREMORS SHAKE NORFOLK VILLAGE.

A mystery vibration shook windows and woke people in the Dersingham area in the early hours of yesterday morning. Mr. W. Sadler, of Ingoldisthorpe Stores, said he was woken at about 5.15 am by a "tremendous vibration" which rattled his bedroom door. He said there was no noise or explosion and he found no damage.

A policewoman at Dersingham said she had also been woken by the vibration, "like a plane crash, a very loud thud."

The Police have found no evidence of a crash or anything untoward which might account for the phenomena.

REPORTS

PC P. Swanson, at Hunstanton Police Station, said that he too was woken at his house in Dersingham. The vibration lasted for about two seconds. At first he thought it was a bird hammering on the window.

Marham Meteorological Office had re-

ceived a number of reports about the incident. Mr. David Taylor, a forecaster, said the vibrations had not felt to him like earth tremors.

Marham planes had been flying that night but he thought it unlikely that one of them could have caused a sonic boom. Other stations might have been

flying planes that night as well, he said. There had been no record of strong wind or freak weather conditions which might have caused the effect. He suggested the phenomena could have been caused by bomb-practise in the Wabb.

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LOCAL CURIOSITIES

In the parish of Hardley, Norfolk, at a point where three crossways meet, there is to be found an ancient stone, said to be the stump of a wayside cross. According to local tradition, ever night at midnight the ghosts of a 'woman in red' comes to sit upon this stone.

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One of the most unusual ghosts in the country must be that which is reputed to haunt Nuns' Bridges at Thetford, Norfolk. The legend tells of how many years ago, young Lord Dacre was staying with his guardian, Sir Richard Fulmerston, when he fell off his rocking horse shattering his head on a wall. Since then young Lord Darce's apparition has been seen riding on a phantom, headless rocking horse!

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A secret passage or tunnel is said to lead from the ruins of Bromholm Priory to Gimingham Hall, Norfolk. Mid way along this tunnel, it is said to be divided by 'Golden Gates.'

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"MY FIRST OCCULT EXPERIENCE"

The house in which I was born no longer exists, it's place being taken by the bus terminus situated on Wellington Road, Gt. Yarmouth. At the age of 4, a quiet rather shy little boy, life was quite normal for me and I accepted most of what went on around me as being normal, for I had never been taught to think for myself, how could I have been at that age anyway?

My parents were ordinary, hardworking people, my father was a member of the local lifeboat, The John Birch by name, and also employed in the fishing business; whilst my mother came of farming stock. Neither of them were superstitious nor did they believe either in ghosts or what is now sometimes termed the supernatural. At the time of which we now speak I had not yet started school, and led a quiet life with my parents.

Our house was the usual 2 up and 2 down terrace house, having at the bottom of the stairs a facing wall, which was covered with ordinary wall paper of a rather geometrical pattern, as I should now describe it.

As I reached the bottom step of the stairs I observed the following: A wooden sailing ship with all sails set, billowing out with the wind and sailing merrily from right to left across the wallpaper; the bows gently rising and falling and the waves rippling at the bows. It was absolutely distinct, and I did not imagine it, what I saw was exactly as described above. There was no sound and it definitely was not a reflection of any kind, such as might have been caused by a trick of the sunlight. It was just a sort of moving picture of a ship in full sail. I was of course, far too young at the time to think of it as anything at all unusual, and I didn't mention it to either of my parents. Anyway, I knew that they would put it down to either childish imagination or maybe a dream which I had had.

I did not, of course, know at the time that this was to be the first of many strange experiences which I was to have during the next 50 or 60 years, and since that time, no attempt has ever been made by me to explain what I had seen. but the fact remains that at the present time it still remains as a vivid recollection in my mind.

W.E.Green.
Norwich.

EXCHANGE MAGAZINES.

ANCIENT SKILLS AND WISDOM REVIEW: Duplicated, quarterly. Designed primarily to review books and magazines which deal with parapsychology, leys, folklore, geomancy etc. Annual Sub £2; details from Paul Screeton, 5 Egton Drive, Seaton Carew, H'pool.

ANOMALY RESEARCH BULLETIN: duplicated, bi-monthly. Fortean phenomena, journal of the Michigan Anomaly Research. UK Annual Sub. £1.50; from Dave Fideler, 7098 Edinburgh, Lambertville, Michigan, USA.

SKYWATCH: duplicated, bi-monthly. UFO's and related subjects. Journal of The Manchester Aerial Phenomena Team. Annual Sub. £1.20 from D.L.Rees, 92 Hillcrest Rd., Offerton, Stockport, SK2 5SE.

RES BUREAUX BULLETIN: Duplicated, tri-weekly. Fortean and allied phenomena. Published by Res Bureaux; details from Mr.X, Box 1598, Kingston, Ontario, Canada.

NORTHERN UFO NEWS: Duplicated, monthly newsletter of the Northern UFO Network. Details from Jenny Randles, 23 Sunningdale Drive, Irlam, Manchester M30 6NJ.

FOUNTAIN JOURNAL: Illustrated, monthly. 'Fringe' aspects of UFO research. Sub. rates; 6 for £2, 12 for £4, 24 for £7. From Fountain Centre, 78 Portway, Wiltshire. Editor Peter Paget.

MUF0B: Litho'd, quarterly. An informal Journal devoted to ufology and allied subjects. Annual Sub. £1 from John Rimmer, 11 Beverley Rd, New Malden, Surrey.

JOURNAL OF GEOMANCY: duplicated (litho'd illus.), quarterly. Published by the Institute of Geomantic Research. Full details of this and other IGR publications from Nigel Pennick, 142 Pheasant Rise, Bar Hill, Cambs. CB3 8SD.

UFO RESEARCH REVIEW: Duplicated, quarterly. Scientific approach to UFO Research. Published by the Nottingham UFO Investigation Society. Single copies 25p each. Full details from R.W.Morrell, 443 Meadow Lane, Nottingham, NG2 3GB.

THE JOURNAL of the Essex UFO Study Group. Duplicated, bi-monthly. 'Down to earth' UFO reports and investigations. Annual sub. £2. Editor Mr.D.J.Goring, 16 Raydons Road, Dagenham, Essex.

ESSEX DOWSER: Duplicated. Privately circulated newsletter to members and friends of the Essex Dowsing Group. Details from Frank Dineen, 4 Brentwood Road, Ingrave, Essex. CM13 3QH.

AWA'RENESS: Duplicated, quarterly. Journal of Contact International (UK). Interesting UFO reports, articles and investigations. Details from J.B.Delair, 19 Cunner Road, Boar's Hill, Near Oxford.

FORTEAN TIMES: litho'd, bi-monthly. THE journal of strange phenomena, curiosities, mysteries etc. Recommended. UK Sub £3. from Bob Rickard, PO Box 152, London N10.

THE LEY HUNTER: litho'd, illustrated. Bi-monthly. Sister magazine of the FORTEAN Times. Leys and allied phenomena. Annual Sub £2. Alternatively, a joint LEY HUNTER/FORTEAN TIMES subscription is available at £4.50 per annum. TLH is edited by Paul Devereux who can be contacted at the same address as the Fortean Times.

SCONEHENCE VIEWPOINT: newspaper format, quarterly. Professionally produced in the USA. Astro-archaeology, geomancy etc. Annual Sub. £1 from 51 Charminster Avenue, Bournemouth, Dorset.

CLYPEUS: UFO and Fortean Phenomena. Can't say much about this interesting looking publication as it is Italian and, naturally, written all in Italian! However, if you are interested, full details from Gianni Settimo, PO Box 604, IOIOO Torino Centro, Italy.

FORTEANA: Professionally produced newspaper format. Once again, can'T say much about it as it is written in Danish, although the contents and illustrations look mouth-wateringly interesting! Details From Skandinavisk Fort Organisation, Classenagade 17 A 4.th., DK-2100 Kobenhavn Ø, Denmark.

That's all we have room for this time. If you would like to exchange mags with us please drop a line to the editorial address inside front cover: Ivan Bunn, Editor.

The following letter appeared in the Eastern Evening News 23 April, 1953:-

"At 8pm on Tuesday, April 21, there was a strange object in the sky to the north of Lowestoft. To the naked eye it was little more than a bright white spot, but through a telescope it resembled a plastic lighter-fuel container, both in colour and shape, ie cylindrical and sharply pointed at one end. When we first saw the object it was moving in a SW direction then turned NE and after about 30 minutes had disappeared. The telescope we used was an astronomical type, giving a magnification of 200x. We are both members of the Royal Observer Corps and have never seen anything like this before."